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WATERING PLACES OF ENGLAND.

BUXTON.

THE WATERING PLACES OF ENGLAND:

COMPRISING

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.	SCARBOROUGH.
WEYMOUTH.	TORQUAY.
BUXTON.	CHELTENHAM.
MATLOCK.	LEAMINGTON.

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS

THE

Watering Places of England.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

THE town of Tunbridge, from which the celebrated springs derive their name, is supposed to be so called from the several bridges which are built over the five streams of the river Medway in their current through the town. The views of its venerable castle are conspicuous for many miles, and to this once important fortress the town of Tunbridge was little more than the suburbs. The extensive building, encircled with three moats, the innermost of which was formed by a new stream dug for the purpose, and now the principal current of the Medway, was, for many hundred years, the alternate seat of war and festivity, one of the four depositories of the deeds and charters of the realm, and during the wars of the barons considered to be a stronghold of no little importance. Its moats were capable of being filled or emptied at pleasure by means of a large weir or bank, which extended for the space of two miles, and formidable were the sieges which it sustained. In the reign of Henry III., Gilbert, Earl of Glou-

cester, then its owner, having associated with the rebellious barons, was besieged in it by the king in person, who, after burning the town, took the fortress, which remained in the possession of the crown for many years, was ultimately conferred on the Dukes of Buckingham, and has given a title to many noble families.

The noted resort for invalids, Tunbridge Wells, is about five miles from the town, forming the centre of a number of scattered groups of dwellings, part of which are in the parish of Speldhurst, Kent, and the remainder in that of Frant, Sussex. These have been called Mount Ephraim, Mount Pleasant, Mount Zion, and the Wells; and near the latter are the markets, chapels, assembly-rooms, and public promenades called the Upper and Lower Walks.

The whole forms a kind of amphitheatre on hills, presenting a highly picturesque background. The singular undulations of the scenery has been accounted for by Dr. Mantell, who observes,—"The hills and vales have been produced by the displacement which the strata have suffered during their immersion, from the depths of the water; this elevation was, in all probability, not sudden, but gradual; and in the changes some of the highest peaks would first appear above the waves, constituting a group of islands, which, from the accumulation of fossils, fruits, &c. at Sheppey, appears to have been soon clothed with vegetation, that could not exist in our present climate. During the process, valleys would be scooped out by currents, the sharp edges of the rocks rounded by diluvial action, and accumulations of *débris* be formed in the undisturbed depths of the ocean."

The discovery of the springs which have rendered this romantic spot so popular, is said to have been made by Dudley Lord North, one of the most distinguished courtiers of James II. Residing at his seat in the neighbourhood for the benefit of his health, he was led during a ramble in the wood, where the springs arise, to judge from their appearance that they possessed medical virtues. He consulted his physicians on the subject, tried the waters in his own case, and tradition tells us was cured of a lingering consumptive disorder by their healing properties. The virtues of the chalybeate springs were then made known, and so highly appreciated that the spot soon became a favourite place of resort. In course of time the lord of the manor cleared the ground, and, discovering seven springs, wells were sunk, a stone pavement laid around, and the whole was enclosed by wooden railings. Among the visitants of the year 1630 was numbered Queen Henrietta Maria, the consort of Charles I.; and, as there were no houses then erected near the springs, her Majesty and suite encamped on Bishop's-down, where they remained six weeks, "enjoying masques and dances," a species of amusement of which the young queen in her days of prosperity was very fond.

It is related that she one day wandered alone to some distance from the encampment, and feeling weary, sat for rest and refreshment under a birch-tree in the neighbouring wood; and, in grateful remembrance of the event, commanded that a stone should be placed on the spot. A complimentary inscription was engraved on it by one of her Majesty's attendants, but the rude par-

tizans of Oliver Cromwell prevented it from reaching posterity. The "Queen's-stone" was built on the spot where the monument was placed, but the inscription is nowhere preserved.

The first buildings which sprung up at the Wells were of a very humble description, but a green bank was raised, and a double row of trees planted, to shelter the visitors from the heat of the sun; and in the year 1664, Lord Muskerry, the lord of the manor, built a hall, and a strong stone wall round the springs, and placed a basin over the main spring, "all which was done in honour of Queen Katharine of Braganza, who was sent to Tunbridge Wells to recruit her health, then suffering from the effects of a dangerous fever," and where her Majesty remained about two months, surrounded by the gay court of Charles II.

A writer of that period tells us, "that they were accommodated with lodgings in little clean and convenient habitations that lie straggling and separated from each other, a mile and a half round the Wells, where the company meet every morning." "The place," he adds, "consists of a long walk, shaded by pleasant trees, under which they walk while drinking the waters. On one side of this walk is a long row of shops, plentifully stocked with all manner of toys, laces, gloves, stockings, and where there is raffling as at Paris. On the other side of the walk is the market; and as it is the custom here for every person to buy their own provisions, care is taken that nothing offensive appear on the stalls. Here, young fair fresh-coloured country girls, with clean linen, small straw hats, and neat shoes and

stockings, sell game, vegetables, flowers, and fruit. Here one may live as one pleases; everything breathes mirth and pleasure. As soon as the evening comes, every one quits his little palace to assemble on the bowling-green, where, in the open air, those who choose dance upon a turf more smooth and soft than the finest carpet in the world."

Queen Anne also patronised the waters of Tunbridge, and added another basin over the Wells, the water of which, in spring, is very bright and clear, tasting strongly of steel, but having scarcely any smell, though sometimes in a dense air the ferruginous exhalations are very distinguishable. In point of heat it is invariably temperate, the spring lying so deep in the earth that neither the summer heat nor winter cold affect it. When taken up in a large glass, its particles continue at rest, till it is warmed nearly to the heat of the atmosphere, when some airy globules begin to separate and adhere to the glass; and in a few hours, a light copper-colour scum begins to float on the surface, and an ochreous sediment settles at the bottom. Long-continued rains give it a milky appearance, but affect it in no other way. From the experiments of different physicians it appears that the component parts of the water are steely particles, marine salts, an oily matter, an ochreous substance, simple water, and a volatile vitriolic spirit, too subtile for any chemical analysis. In weight, the water is, in seven ounces and a quarter, four grains lighter than the German Spa (to which it is preferable on that account), and ten grains lighter than common water. The produce of these Wells is said to be an impregna-

tion of rain in some of the neighbouring eminences, which abound in iron mineral, where it is further enriched with the marine salts, and all the valuable ingredients constituting it a light and pure chalybeate, adapted to most cold chronic complaints, lowness of spirits, weak digestion, and nervous complaints of every description.

The air of the neighbourhood is eminently pure and salubrious, and the bold and picturesque scenery possesses great attractions for visitors. The High Rocks, about one mile and a-half from the Wells, are a favourite resort, and are said to have been first brought into notice by King James II., who, when Duke of York, repaired to the Wells, and dwelt in tents at this spot, with his duchess and two daughters, afterwards Queens Mary and Anne.

In our slight sketch of the Wells, we must not pass unnoticed the manufacture of Tunbridge-ware, for which the neighbourhood has been so long celebrated, and which is indeed now plentifully carried on at the Wells. From the humming-top and smallest toy, to cabinets, cases, tables, boxes, cases, &c., the turnery ware still continues to be made from native woods, such as the holly, beech, yew, plum, cherry, stem of furze, broom, white and black thorn, &c. Upwards of forty varieties of native wood are thus employed, and since the introduction of mosaic work, partly coloured foreign wood of every description has also been used. In 1826, the inhabitants presented to her Majesty (then Princess Victoria), perhaps the most beautiful specimen of their manufacture ever produced, in the form of a combined writing, reading, and work table, veneered with a vast variety of coloured

woods, home and foreign, the whole supported by a tripod of solid carved wood, and fitted up with costly elegance.

The markets of Tunbridge offer a delicacy in the way of eating, which, before the days of railroads, could scarcely be tasted in true perfection anywhere else—we allude to the wheat-ear, or English ortolan—a bird, like its Italian namesake, of about the size of a lark, and consisting mostly of fat, a peculiarity which, from its being in season only during the summer, formerly prevented its conveyance to the London markets without injury to the delicate flavour of the bird. To the botanist, the neighbourhood of the Wells presents many attractions, though the numerous new enclosures and system of bog-draining have considerably lessened the number of rare plants, once found here in great abundance. Splachnum ampullaceum (purple bottle moss), which grew on the bog in Waterdown Forest, near the High Rocks, is not now to be met with; and the little, scarce plant, Blasia pusilla, or Dwarf Blasia, has also quite disappeared. But the Convallaria majalis (lily of the valley); Dianthus armeria (Deptford pink); Orobanche elatior (tall broom rape); many curious varieties of Ophrys and Orchis, with other floral treasures, are still to be gathered, as welcome prizes for the herbarium.

The drainage and enclosures, to which we have just alluded, have also had their wonted effect on the temperature of the air; for rocks and cliffs, which formerly used to be clothed with lichens, mosses, and ferns, are now become so dry, that such plants no longer, by their rich profusion, court the attention of the botanist. He will still,

however, find many valuable Cryptogamic specimens; and, in addition to the following list of ferns, may secure one, which took its name of Hymenophyllum Tonbrigiense from its locality.

Polypodium vulgare . . .	Common Polypody.
Aspidium Thelypteris . .	Marsh.
— Oreopteris . .	Heath.
— Filix mas . . .	Male Fern.
— aculeatum . .	Common prickly Polypody.
— lobatum . . .	Lobed prickly.
— Filix fœmina .	Female.
— irriguum . . .	Spring.
— spinulosum . .	Lesser-crested Fern.
— dilatatum . . .	Great-crested Fern.
Asplenium Trichomanes .	Common Maiden hair.
— Ruta muraria .	Wall rue, White Maiden hair.
Adiantum nigrum . . .	Black Maiden hair.
— lanceolatum .	Spear Maiden hair.
Scolopendrium vulgare. .	Common Hart's tongue.
Brechuum boreale . . .	Rough Spleen-wort.
Pteris aquilina	Common brakes.
Pteris β	Fine-leaved common brakes.
Pilularia globulifera . . .	Pillwort.
Osnumda regalis	Flowering Fern.

On Rustall Common, in the vicinity of the Wells, are some singularly formed rocks, well worthy of a visit from the tourist; while the once magnificent, but now decayed, mansion of Penshurst, formerly the residence of Sir Philip Sydney, is also within a short distance. Its beautifully wooded park is now in part converted into hop-grounds, and divided into distinct enclosures; but this, as well as the noble mansion, still retains enough of its original outline to convey an adequate idea of its former grandeur.

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WEYMOUTH.

WEYMOUTH.

In the inner curve of a spacious and beautiful bay, formed on the coast of Dorsetshire, by the promontories of St. Alban's Head and Portland Bill, and at the mouth of the little river whence it takes its name, stands the ancient port of Weymouth, now better known as a favourite autumnal watering-place than a sea-port.

Sheltered by hills, the fine beach round which it spreads, forms a gradual descent of firm and level sand, rendering it a delightful promenade for the lovers of the sea-side, while, at the same time, they can enjoy many of the advantages of an ocean climate in true perfection; for so equable and temperate are the seasons, that many plants which in other parts of England require protection from cold, flourish at Weymouth throughout the winter in the open air. The geranium grows luxuriantly, and the large and small-leaved myrtle are out-of-door plants; in fact, the salubrious climate, in every point, justifies the opinion of the celebrated Dr. Arbuthnot, who came in his early days to settle at Weymouth, and remarked, that "a physician could neither live nor die there."

The town of Weymouth was formerly a distinct borough, but in the reign of Elizabeth it was united with Melcombe Regis, a town so called from being built on the demesne lands of the Crown,

and both places are now known by the general name of Weymouth. They are divided from each other by an estuary or arm of the sea, which forms the harbour, and united by a bridge thrown across the narrowest end of the piece of water, which widens in an irregular form, somewhat in the shape of a bottle. The lower part is called the Back-water, and from this, a considerable portion of the land on which Melcombe stands has been reclaimed, a process which is still going on.

The admirable situation of the harbour did not fail to render Weymouth a place of considerable trade at an early period; and its commerce with France, Spain, and Newfoundland, long sustained the maritime importance of the town; and in the time of Edward III. (1347), the quota of men and ships which it furnished was much larger than that of many ports which have since risen into importance.

In the reign of Henry VII. (1505), Philip of Castile and his queen, going down the Channel from Middlebourg, with eighty sail of vessels, for Spain, were glad to take refuge in this port from a heavy gale; and when the fact became known to Henry VII., he sent down the Earl of Arundel with a troop of 300 horse to escort Philip on a friendly visit to London. The occurrence is remarkable, as leading to the ennobling of the Russell family, a gentleman of that name having, from his knowledge of the Spanish language, been invited to accompany the royal party, and to act as interpreter between the monarchs. Becoming, subsequently, a favourite at Court, and especially with the young prince, John Russell was created Duke of Bedford.

Another interesting fact connected with Weymouth, we gather from a MS. history of Dorsetshire, written by John Coker, and now in the British Museum, which states, that on the south side of Portland Island, the Spanish Armada made an attempt to land their supposed invincible army; "but," says the quaint historian, "they were prevented by the English, and between them there began, in the sight of the whole coast, such a fight, that they were forced to acknowledge their army vincible, and to shift for themselves, though many hundreds of them came short home, and two of their great shippes, with a Don, brought into Weymouth."

In the reign of James I., Weymouth was alluded to, as "a great and famous port, and as nourishing and employing a great number of mariners;" but from this period the place may be considered to have been in a declining state until after the middle of the last century. It began to recover from its depression about the year 1763, when a gentleman of Bath, named Allen, brought it into repute as a bathing place. On his first visit to Weymouth no bathing machine existed, and he was obliged to get one made for his own use; but having greatly benefited during his visit by the pure mild air, his recommendation of the place soon brought other invalids in pursuit of the same objects, and the usual accommodations of a watering place speedily sprung up. In 1780, the Duke of Gloucester passed a winter at this spot, and subsequently built a house for his own residence there. In 1789, George III. paid his first visit, and from that time, Weymouth became a very favourite resort for the royal family. It was [illegible]

covered to be the "Montpelier of England;" and the "plague of building lighting upon it," as old Fuller remarks, "it spread, until goodly rows of houses offered ample accommodation to the numerous visitors of so genial a resort for health and amusement."

The absence of all idle ceremony, the early hours, and simple, yet rational recreations which characterised the visits to Weymouth of the then royal family, remind us forcibly of the habits of our own beloved Queen, either in her autumnal home at Balmoral, or during her sea excursions at all seasons. "At seven in the morning," we find "George the Third, Queen Charlotte, and three of their daughters, starting from Windsor with a few attendants, in a cavalcade consisting of but three carriages, and proceeding by Winchester and Southampton to Lyndhurst Lodge, now called the King's House, in the New Forest, where they spent several days. At their entrance into the Forest, their Majesties received the homage of Sir Charles Mills, who holds the manor of Langley, upon condition of presenting the king, whenever he passes that way, with a brace of white greyhounds in silver collars, led in a silken cord, and coupled in a golden chain; a circumstance which seems to have afforded the young princesses great gratification."

During the residence of the royal family at Weymouth, early hours became quite fashionable; for at six in the morning the King, Queen, and Princesses frequently made their appearance on the promenade, and at a time when most of the fashionable world in other parts of England might be presumed to be still enjoying their morning sleep, the royal party were more than once on the

sea-shore of Weymouth, watching the important process of "hauling the seine" (a fishing-net of great length, so called), and witnessing the interesting sight of from 25,000 to 30,000 mackerel or herrings, struggling in captivity on the sands, and sparkling like jewels in the early sunbeams, a sight which still seldom fails to attract all the visitors of Weymouth, and enables those interested in natural history to gladly secure "many good specimens," the growth of deeper waters than the seaweeds, echinæ, shells, &c., which are generally to be found on the shores of this neighbourhood.

The magnificent man-of-war and a frigate, which constantly rode at anchor for the purpose, took the royal party on frequent excursions into the Channel, and from these they invariably returned to dine at four o'clock. Many stories are current of the King's affability towards the residents, of all classes, and one in particular we cannot forbear noticing: it is that of a poor man who had been confined for seven years in Dorchester gaol for a debt of 220*l.*, which his Majesty generously paid. The young Princess Charlotte was also a great favourite here, and especially among the naval officers and seamen, as she had a considerable partiality for ships and nautical matters, and often went on short cruises in the sloops, frigates, and line-of-battle ships that occasionally touched in the harbour, frequently braving a tolerably rough sea in an open barge, and ascending the ladder on the ship's side by the man-ropes, instead of accepting the chain which accommodated her attendants. The royal family regularly attended the parish church, excepting once, when they honoured the officers of the *Magnificent*, by being present at Divine service on board.

a circumstance which gave rise to great preparation in order to receive the illustrious visitors with due and becoming respect.

Weymouth offers great facilities for sea-bathing, as the fine expanse of sand around the bay of Weymouth descends so gradually that at a distance of 300 feet from the shore, the water is not more than knee deep, while at the same time it is so firm and level that horses and carriages may be driven close to the water's edge. The semicircular bay, with St. Alban's Head in the distance, and Portland Isle towards the S. W., lies on the east of the esplanade, while terraces of fine houses lie on the west. Skirting the beach, and having flights of steps for ascending at convenient distances, is the Esplanade; raised above which is an embankment of masonry, forming one of the finest marine parades in Europe. On one side is a noble terrace of houses, on the other the ocean itself.

Distant from Weymouth between four and five miles is the mass of freestone called Portland Isle, though, in reality, it is but a peninsula, connected with the mainland by a ridge of pebbles, called Chesil banks. This bank extends nearly seventeen miles in a N. W. direction along the coast of Dorset, from which it is separated by an arm of the sea called the Fleet, thus forming one of the most extraordinary ridges or shelves of land in Europe, and perhaps the longest, if we except that of Memel, in Polish Prussia. Its average height is from fifty to sixty feet above the level of the sea, and its breadth varies from a quarter to half a mile; the pebbles of which it is formed consist, chiefly, of a white calcareous kind, but there are

many of jasper, quartz, &c. They gradually diminish in size from the Portland end of the bank, to that which attaches it to the mainland, and are throughout so loosely thrown together, that the legs of a horse sink almost knee deep at every step. Several ingenious theories have been advanced to account for the formation of this curious work of nature, but they have been hitherto considered unsatisfactory. The *consequence* of this self-raised barrier, from the depths of the ocean, may be imagined, when its summit is reached, for it is capable of opposing the most furious tempest, and the neighbouring country probably owes much of its security to this wonderful bulwark of nature. Near the projecting peninsula of Portland, where these stones first touch the shore, they are the largest in size and least rounded in form; but as the drift of the currents, and the pressure of the ocean, continually drive them further and further in towards the bay, they become smaller and smoother, and are so reduced by constant attrition, that in a series of years masses of ten or twelve pounds will become little pebbles of an ounce each; and this diminution of size is so gradual, that the smugglers can, it is said, when landing upon the beach in a dark night, tell the relative distance from either extremity of this long neck, by the size of the pebbles alone. During a storm the breaking of the sea, and the commotion of the pebbles, form together an imposingly magnificent sight and sound. When a north wind prevails, the pebbles are washed away.

"It is a grand and interesting sight," remarks an old traveller, "to stand upon the topmost ridge of the isthmus and look to the western edge, where

the waves roll in with such force as to wash the largest stones up to the farthest limit that the water reaches, keeping the whole mass in a constant state of attrition; and as far as the eye can reach, the surf having a line of snow-white foam in unbroken continuity: then turning to the eastern side of the ridge to mark the even sandy slope which borders the perfectly smooth and tranquil bay." Occasionally, though, during a terrific gale, the waves have been known to ride over the whole ridge, and during the great storm of 23d November, 1824, a vessel of ninety-five tons, in the service of the Ordnance, laden with heavy iron guns, and bound to Lough Swilly, was saved in a most extraordinary manner, by being carried over the beach in a tremendous sea, at the period of high water, and ultimately, by the exertions of the hardy islanders, the vessel was finally launched into the Swannery-fleet on the Weymouth side.

This Swannery-fleet receives the waters of several rivulets, and runs into the open sea at its south-eastern extremity, by a narrow channel, called Small-mouth. At its N. W. extremity it forms a swannery (whence it obtained its name), which contains sometimes seven to eight hundred swans, and is, with the ruins of the old abbey at Abbotsbury, a great object of interest to strangers.

The want of a safe roadstead, or harbour of refuge, in the vicinity of Portland, led to the commencement of the breakwater now in progress, by which the beautiful bay included between Portland, Lulworth, and Weymouth, will soon be as effectually protected from the influence of the south-easterly gales, as it is already guarded

by nature from every other quarter of the compass.

The breakwater, which extends a mile and a quarter in a N. E. direction from nearly the western point of the island, in about seven fathoms of water, has an opening of one hundred and fifty feet at a quarter of a mile from the shore, and shelters an area of nearly 1,200 acres. The cost is estimated at about 500,000*l.*, an amount which would be utterly inadequate for the purpose at any other part of the British coast, and, when compared with the cost of the one at Plymouth, appears but inconsiderable. This, however, is owing to the employment of convict labour, and the proximity of Portland Isle, which affords ample materials for the work in the "Capstone" from the quarries. This far exceeds the good building stone in quantity, and has hitherto been almost considered as rubbish. It is now found to be admirably calculated for the purpose of a breakwater, and thus the engineers have at hand an abundant supply of material which has scarcely any mercantile value, and which is taken from that part of the island constituting the property of the Crown.

The foundation stone of this important structure was laid by Prince Albert in 1848; and when His Royal Highness visited the spot in the summer of last year (1852), the breakwater had not only made a considerable appearance above the water, and well withstood the gales of the preceding winter, but had proved its usefulness during the long prevalence of the stiff east and south-easterly winds, which were so severely felt in the early part of the season at other parts of the coast; for,

during this critical period, the water sheltered by the Portland breakwater was quite smooth, and the harbour rendered as safe as it is commodious. A squadron stationed at this spot will, in future, have under its protection, jointly with Dartmouth, all the intervening coast; and these places, with Plymouth, will complete the chain of communication between Dover and Falmouth, a distance of 300 miles.

BUXTON.

" Scenes must be beautiful which daily view'd
Please daily, and whose novelty survives
Long knowledge and the scrutiny of years."—COWPER.

MINERAL waters occur in every part of the world, differing in the ingredients which they contain, according to the channel over which they have flowed, and also varying considerably in temperature. Most of them are of the temperature of the surrounding medium, the others vary in degree, from the moderate heat of Matlock, Buxton, and Bristol, to the hot Geysers of Iceland, which, the Philosophical Transactions state, will, "in a quarter of an hour boil a large piece of beef." Springs of a very high temperature also exist in the vicinity of subterraneous fires and volcanoes, and are frequent on the Continent, especially in the kingdoms of Sicily and Naples. The hot springs at Aix-la-Chapelle have long been celebrated, and one of these, the Borcette spring, is of such high temperature that it may almost be termed a boiling one. The women of the village constantly employ it for the purpose of washing, and the large smoking cauldron which is open in the middle of the street at Borcette has a very strange appearance, the

vapour rising and spreading up and down it to a considerable distance. At Wiesbaden is a most remarkable spring, or rather assemblage of springs, the temperature of which is 140° at all seasons of the year, and which retains its heat longer than any other water of the same temperature. The fuming waters have been compared "to very hot chicken broth," and are used both as drink and bath. In the latter form they present to the bather a surface of "dirty-white thick froth," which is by no means inviting; but they have an invigorating effect on the frame, and are even sent bottled, as a cosmetic, into various parts of Europe. The boiling spring of the Geyser, and some hot springs of India, contain a considerable quantity of siliceous earth in solution.

The mineral and medicinal waters of Derbyshire are, as might be expected in a country abounding with fossils, very numerous. All those of a chalybeate and sulphureous nature arise in beds of shale, and probably derive their impregnation from this substance; the warm springs also are observed to appear near these beds, though they break out in the stratum of limestone almost exclusively.

Amongst the sulphureous waters of the county, that which is highest in repute rises in the park of Lord Scarborough, at Kidleston; this in temperature is about 47°, and is principally valued for its antiscorbutic properties. In a glass, it looks clear and transparent; but in the well, it appears of a blackish-blue tint, and any substance thrown into it assumes the same hue. Waters of this kind are distinguished by rendering metallic silver black, or causing a brownish-black precipitate, with a solution of acetate of lead or nitrate of silver. This

arises from the union of the sulphur with the metallic silver or lead. It acts in this way on several of the metallic oxides, one of which constitutes the "pearl powder" of the perfumers; and a lady who employed this cosmetic found, to her horror, after taking a sulphureous water bath, that her complexion had become of a dingy brown colour.

Sir Francis Head mentions a very remarkable spring of this kind, at Langen Schwalbach, in Nassau, from which a suffocating gas constantly ascends; in spite of which, however, the Jews residing in the village constantly drink, cook, and wash with the water.

The chalybeate springs of Derbyshire are, as we have remarked, very numerous, but the most celebrated waters are those of Buxton and Matlock, warm springs which have attained such celebrity, from their medicinal virtues and picturesque locality, as to be the annual resort of a crowd of visitors, who flock to them as much for pleasure as for health.

The tepid waters of Buxton were held in great estimation from a very early period, and an interesting confirmation of this fact was discovered about a century since, when the remains of a Roman bath, near the source of one of the springs, was brought to light. In 1571, Dr. Jones wrote a treatise on the virtues of the waters, which greatly added to their celebrity, and from that period to the present they have preserved their reputation and popularity.

The town of Buxton is situated in a deep valley or basin, surrounded by the bleak hills and extensive tracts of moorland which form that part of Derbyshire called the High Peak; and but for the

narrow ravine through which the river Wye flows on its way to the Derwent, and parallel to the high road leading to Bakewell, would be entirely environed with mountains. Axe-edge, three miles from Buxton, is, next to Kinderscout, the highest mountain in the N.W. of Derbyshire, being 1,000 feet above the valley in which Buxton Crescent stands, and 2,100 feet higher than the town of Derby.

From this mountain, four rivers rise in opposite directions, the Wye, the Dove, the Goyte, and the Dean. Chee Tor, a perpendicular and stupendous rock of limestone 360 feet in height, is about five miles distant; and a few miles further, Mam Tor rears its majestic head 1,500 feet above the valley in which it stands.

The first convenient house built near the springs, for the accommodation of visitors, was erected by the Earl of Shrewsbury about 1568, and its construction soon caused the place to become one of general resort. During the reign of Elizabeth, the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots paid it a visit more than once; and in the old hall is still shown a window, on the glass of which are scratched, in Latin, Cæsar's verses upon Feltria, applied with some slight alteration to Buxton by the captive queen, and which have been thus translated:—

> "Buxton, whose fame thy milk-warm waters tell,
> Whom I perchance no more shall see, farewell!"

Buxton now consists of two parts, the Old and New Town, and in the latter stands the immense pile of buildings erected in 1781, at a cost of 120,000*l.*, by the late Duke of Devonshire, called the Crescent, and which enclose the baths, five in number. One of these is called St. Ann's Well,

and over it is raised a small Grecian temple. By the side of the white marble basin, into which the water issues from the spring, is a double pump, which excites the astonishment of strangers, by producing either cold or hot water, within a few inches of each other. The spring flows at the rate of sixty gallons a minute, the water being somewhat colder than the waters at Bath, but warmer than those of Matlock and Clifton, the almost invariable temperature being 82° of Fahrenheit's thermometer; it is clear, sparkling, grateful to the palate, while the temperature as a bath is peculiarly agreeable. Its beneficial tendency is particularly apparent in gout and rheumatism, and general debility of the system.

A chemical analysis decides the Buxton water to be slightly impregnated with mineral matter, particularly calcareous earth, sea-salt, and acidulous gas, with perhaps some other permanently elastic vapour.

A charitable and useful custom prevails at these baths, which is worthy of notice; it is that of collecting the sum of one shilling from each visitor of more than a day, on his arrival, to form a fund for the poor who have resort to the waters. In 1572 a fixed rate existed, according to the dignity of the visitor, and the money raised was divided equally between the physician and the poor bathers.

The environs of Buxton abound with natural curiosities and romantic scenery, among which the high perpendicular crags, bordering the valley of the Wye and "Poole's Hole," as it is called, are among the most interesting. The latter is a cavern of considerable dimensions, in a limestone rock, contracted in its entrance but spacious in the

interior. The tradition of the country says, that it took its name from having been the residence of an outlaw of the name of Poole, and if so, very secure must have been the retreat, as the passage is at first so narrow that for about five-and-twenty yards, it is necessary to proceed in a stooping posture. The passage then widens into a lofty and spacious cavern, the roof and sides of which are covered with stalactites, one of which, more remarkable than the rest, about the middle of the cave, is called "the flitch of bacon." Here the cave again contracts, but beyond it becomes wide and lofty, as far as a large massy column of stalagmite, denominated "the Queen of Scots' Ppillar," so named from a tradition that she once proceeded as far as this point.

The droppings of the water, laden with calcareous matter, falling on the rugged floor, form many masses of stalagmite, which the fancy of those who show the cavern liken to many articles of common life. The whole length of the subterraneous passage is about 769 yards; it belongs to the Duke of Devonshire, and is granted by him to nine old women, who act as guides, and receive the money given by the visitor, whom they conduct into the cavern by a path which winds along the side at some height from its bottom, bringing him back by one which is on the ground-floor, if it may be so called. By this change of path, an opportunity is afforded of clearly ascertaining the height and width of the cavern in every part, and of better viewing other accumulations of stalactite, some of which are of prodigious size and remarkable form. Above "Poole's Hole," on the sides of the hill, are the kiln and limestone quarries, which give

employment to more than a hundred families. They live like the Troglodytes of old, in dwellings not built, but excavated out of the ashes which have been thrown here from the lime-kilns, a considerable quantity of lime being burnt, and sent into distant parts by the Peak Forest Railway, not far distant. Near this spot is a place called Diamond Hill, from its furnishing quartz of an hexagonal form, known by the name of Buxton diamonds, the whitest of which have the property of cutting glass.

The wells about this neighbourhood consist of beds of limestone and of lava or toadstone, which lie alternately one upon the other, and in many parts of the country are several yards thick. There are many shops in Buxton for the sale of its mineral productions and those of the Peak, manufactured into various articles of ornament and use, besides fossils and specimens of interesting natural curiosities. Among these is the beautiful spar, found near the shivering mountain, Castleton, and called "Blue John." It was formerly used in preparing the roads, but is now purchased at the expense of forty guineas per ton, for the purpose of being manufactured into vases, &c. This fluor-spar, frequently confounded with calcareous spar, differs from it most essentially. It contains an acid, the most penetrating of any yet known, and which is very different from the carbonic. This acid, from its peculiar properties of corroding glass and siliceous substances, has been employed in France for engraving glass plates, and the specimens obtained are reported to be of singular beauty. When moderately heated, this spar becomes phosphorescent; in a strong heat it

melts of itself, and emits flames that are extremely noxious; by a certain degree of heat, its blue colour changes to a fine red, or reddish purple, but with a greater heat all its colours are discharged and it becomes white. The mountain in which it is found appears itself like an assemblage of vast rocks of limestone, without connexion or regularity, and is full of openings or caverns of immense depths, while the fluor-spar is found in pipe veins of various directions, and in great number and variety.

The scenery in the neighbourhood of Matlock has been said to present a close resemblance to that of Saxon Switzerland. It has certainly more wood, and quite as much rock; and though the river Derwent is, it must be confessed, a less considerable stream than the Elbe, yet the natural and geological features of both places are precisely the same.

In each, stratified rocks form part of the scenery, rising to a height of 6,700 feet, and evidently formed at the bottom of an antediluvian ocean, with a river winding through the deep and perpendicular cliffs. At Matlock baths, these are more richly clothed with verdure, but the ledges of rock called "Abraham's Heights," and the romantic rocks around them, present a close epitome of the splintered pinnacles seen at the summit of the Bastei. They have been severed from each other by time or earthquakes, and are chiefly covered with moss; some, more than a thousand feet above the Derwent, appear as if hanging in a most precarious manner over the flood, which sometimes flows in a smooth and gentle stream, reflecting the pendant boughs that wave on its

margin, and sometimes rushes onwards with great impetuosity over a bed of rugged rocks. But the picturesque scenery of Matlock vale is seen to most advantage when approached from the bridge at its northern extremity, as its beauties then succeed each other in a regular gradation of striking objects. Foremost, we see a vast rampart of limestone rock, clothed with yew-trees, elms, and limes of singularly beautiful form and foliage, from the recesses of which peeps the humble church of Matlock. As we advance, the High Tor rears its vast head to the height of three hundred and fifty feet, the lower part clothed with rich underwood, but the upper, for fifty to sixty yards, presenting a broad mass of naked, perpendicular rock. The fragments that have fallen from this eminence form the bed of the Derwent, which flows immediately under. Opposite to this fine Tor, but rising with a more gradual ascent and to a greater elevation, is Masson Hill, a pile of immense crags, bearing, as we have before remarked, the name of the "Heights of Abraham," and which command a beautiful bird's-eye view of the whole dale, about two miles in extent, and one of the finest in Derbyshire. From this point, even the High Tor loses its sublimity, but may be distinctly traced as forming a part of the chain of rocks which bound the river on the east.

MATLOCK.

MATLOCK includes, under one name, the village of Matlock and Matlock Bath. The village, which is of very ancient origin, stands chiefly on the eastern banks of the river, while the Bath, of more recent origin, is on the western margin, about a mile and a half from the village; and until its warm springs were brought into notice, its situation, although beautiful and romantic, was only occupied by a few miners' cabins, while the whole dale is mentioned in the time of De Foe as being almost inaccessible from the want of a road.

The first of the springs was discovered about the year 1698, when the old bath was formed of wood, lined with lead, and a few small rooms were built adjoining the bath, forming, however, but a poor accommodation to visitors. Some years afterwards, the property having changed hands, two large and commodious buildings were erected, with stables and other conveniences, and a coach road formed along the river side from Cromford.

A second spring was found at about a quarter of a mile distant, and another bath erected; and at a still later period a third, three to four hundred yards to the east of that first discovered, and another bath and lodging-house built, now turned

MATLOCK.

into a commodious hotel. The three buildings are respectively called, the Old Bath, the New Bath, and the Hotel. All the hot springs issue at a height of from about fifteen to thirty yards above the level of the river; higher or lower, the springs are only cold and common water.

The hot springs are not of a high temperature, the thermometer in the bath not rising higher than 68°, and in chemical and medicinal properties they are much like that of the Clifton hot-wells, while the surrounding scenery vividly calls that spot to remembrance.

The village of Matlock is chiefly inhabited by persons employed in the lead mines and in the manufacture of cotton, which latter is carried on at the upper end of the dale, in spacious buildings erected for the purpose at the village of Cromford by the late Sir Richard Arkwright. One was also built by him at Masson, and all are worked with water from an "adit" for the use of the mines, called Cromford sough, full two miles in length, and driven at an expense of upwards of 30,000*l.* This throws out from forty to fifty tons of water per minute, and being partly supplied by warm springs, never interrupts the working of the mills, even in the most intense frosts.

The entrance into Matlock dale, by Cromford, is through a deep and narrow excavation in Scarching rock, and immediately on passing it, the splendid scenery of the dale at once bursts on the eye. Following the ascending road on the left, we reach a hotel, commanding from its grounds a very fine view of the surrounding scenery, and which also possesses an object well worthy of notice in a lime-tree, one of the largest of its

species anywhere to be seen in England. Full of years, and yet luxuriant in foliage, it covers an area of more than three hundred and thirty feet in circumference. Under the High Tor a mine is now in operation, and near this mine is the crystallized grotto, which is approached by a wooden bridge over the Derwent; and although of considerable extent, is not so remarkable for its dimensions, as peculiarly interesting from the curiously organized materials of which it is composed. The floor, the sides, and the roofs are one entire mass of crystallized carbonate of lime, the general form of which is provincially known by the name of "dog's-tooth spar." Millions of these crystals are here congregated together; some perfectly defined and complete in form, and others only partially developed; and as such a quantity of material in a crystalline state is not to be met with in any other part of Derbyshire, the grotto is therefore deserving of particular attention.

The western bank of the Derwent, for the whole distance between Matlock and the old bath, is one vast bed of tuphus or calcareous incrustation, which has been deposited by the waters flowing from the warm springs. This is commonly called "petrified moss," and appears to have been formed on a morass, or collection of moss, shrubs, and small trees; it is extremely porous, and, like the tufas of volcanic countries, highly favourable to vegetation. In this stratum, if it may be so called, the two petrifying wells of Matlock are situated.

Petrifying springs are those where the water penetrates the pores of vegetable and animal substances placed in them, dissolves out and removes

the particles of which they are composed, and substitutes earthy or stony particles, which are arranged in the same way as those of the former substances, and preserve their general form. The rivers Danube and Pregal, in the course of ages, convert in this manner into petrifactions stakes of wood placed in them.

The collection exhibited by the person who keeps the springs at Matlock contains several extraordinary instances of vegetable, animal, and testaceous substances, which have been thus converted into stone by the petrifying process of the well. Among them, we remember seeing a beautiful specimen of a bird's nest and eggs.

Four excellent museums are open to the public at Matlock, the first of which emanated from the distinguished traveller and mineralogist, Mr. Mawe. This contains not only a rich store of the spar and fluor productions of that country, but a great and choice variety of urns, vases, groups, and figures, sculptured in Italian marble and alabaster; minerals, native and foreign, precious stones and shells, with various other natural productions abound.

Diamond engraving on black marble originated in Matlock, being introduced by a lady from Sheffield on a visit to the springs, and who subsequently executed many of the earlier specimens of this mode of ornamenting black marble. Her subjects were chiefly moonlight effects, for which this kind of engraving seems peculiarly adapted. Mr. Rayner has now brought similar representations to a high degree of excellence, and they have quite assumed the character of works of art. The picturesque neighbourhoods of both Buxton and

Matlock offer much that is interesting to the artist as well as the naturalist, and many magnificent subjects for the pencil exist, of which we shall not attempt the slightest description, knowing full well how cold and feeble must be the language of mere words in attempting to give an idea of that species of beauty which, as in the scenery of this romantic country, so nearly approaches to sublime grandeur.

SCARBOROUGH

SCARBOROUGH.

"How happy they
Who, from the toil and tumult of their lives,
Steal to look down, where nought but ocean strives."

SCARBOROUGH, so picturesquely situated on the face of lofty cliffs, which encircle a bay compared by many travellers to that of Naples, has been justly called "the queen of sea-bathing places;" for while it offers all the advantages of sea-air and bathing, it also possesses two springs of mineral water, long held in considerable repute, and which, about a hundred years since, caused the town of Scarborough to be, in point of popularity, what Brighton, Margate, or Hastings, are at the present moment. A curious book published in 1733, bearing the title of a "Journey from London to Scarborough," gives a long list of the noble visitors at the spot, who were then declared to be "as thick at the Yorkshire Spa as berries in hedges." The natural phenomena, the airy cliffs, castled crags, and silver sands, are so rich as to offer great and enduring attractions to the visitor. The strongly-marked geological formation of the coast, right and left of Scarborough, with its caverns and promontories, its clefts, its disloca-

tions, and its elevation, are all sufficiently denuded to exhibit a very museum to the geological observer; while from Robin Hood's Bay northward, to the Flamborough Head southward, a distance of 33 miles of coast, every inch of the land, which may be inspected at low water, over a course of the finest sands in England, is replete with interest to the naturalist, and may, in the romantic beauties of its scenery, recal, to the wanderer of other climes, views which remind him of those he has witnessed in the Adriatic, or in Greece, and which he little expected to find equalled on the N.E. coast of his own land.

The origin of this ancient town is unknown; but its old name of Scarburgh is of Saxon derivation, signifying rock-fortress; and the majestic ruins of the castle from which the town thus took its name, are still among the most interesting objects of attraction in the neighbourhood. They crown a precipitous rock, whose eastern termination, which advances into the sea, rises about 300 feet above the waters. The principal part of the castle now remaining stands at a considerable distance back from this bold and inaccessible front, but on ground which is very nearly as elevated and on such a range of perpendicular and inaccessible rock, that the fortress, before the invention of gunpowder, might well be deemed impregnable. A huge square tower, still nearly 100 feet high, and 50 to 60 feet square, with walls of 12 feet thickness, is now open to the sky; but marks are still discernible, of vaultings which had formerly divided the ascent into three stories, each of which must have been about 30 feet from the floor to the ceiling. An immense fireplace still remains on the ground

floor. This tower was probably the keep of the ancient castle, and, as usual, has been preserved from destruction by its extraordinary strength and solidity, long after time has swept away nearly all the surrounding parts of the structure, the whole of which, standing upon about 19 acres of ground, was enclosed by a wall, and the gate guarded by a deep fosse or ditch, with a drawbridge over it; which fosse is continued along the entire length of the wall, leading southward from that point to the sea.

This important stronghold was built in the reign of King Stephen, by the Earl of Albemarle, who married a daughter of William the Conqueror, and ruled in this part of Yorkshire with such princely authority, that Henry II., being jealous of his power and influence, resolved to see, in person, the demolition of this supposed impregnable fortress; but on visiting Scarborough, the monarch was so struck with the important position of the castle, as a defence of the coast, that after expelling the Earl by force, he not only preserved it from destruction, but greatly augmented its strength and magnificence.

It has ever since remained one of the royal castles, and is still occupied by a small garrison, consisting of a few invalids who are accommodated in barracks of modern erection. Occasionally used as a prison for offenders against the State, we find, in 1665, the celebrated George Fox imprisoned here for twelve months; and although his constitution was extremely delicate and feeble, he supported the rigours of his severe confinement in a miserable cell, with perfect resignation and fortitude. He occupied three different rooms, at

different periods, and one of these on the seaside of the castle, now in ruins, was at a little distance from the Lady's Well, a spring of most important use to the garrison. "Lying much open," he remarks, "the wind drove in the rain so forcibly that water came in over my bed, and ran about the room, so that I was glad to skim it up with a platter."

A threepenny loaf lasted him three weeks and sometimes longer, and most of his drink was water, with an infusion of wormwood. The exemplary fortitude and inoffensive conduct of George Fox so conciliated the governor, Sir Jordan Crosland, and the officers of the garrison, that they ultimately became his friends and intercessors, and were accustomed to remark that "he was as stiff as a tree and as pure as a bell, for they never could move him;" he was consequently released by an order of the King, in which he was directed "to pass without molestation quietly about his lawful occasions."

One of the most memorable events in the history of the castle is the siege it sustained in the civil wars of the seventeenth century, when it was held for the King by Sir Hugh Cholmley, and compelled by famine and disease to surrender. A few years afterwards it figured for the last time in our military annals, by sustaining another siege, from the holder having declared for the King, and the fortress again fell into the hands of the parliamentary forces.

While the ruins of this once-celebrated feudal stronghold look down upon the sea on one side, they have the town of Scarborough stretched below and around them on the other. What is

called the lower town, rises from the shore in the form of an amphitheatre, while clustered on the cliff is the upper town, having in front a fine terrace, nearly a hundred feet above the level of the sea, and consequently commanding a vast expanse of ocean.

There were anciently two hospitals and four monasteries in Scarborough, of which no vestiges remain except the parish church of St. Mary, which, before the Reformation, had "three fair towers;" but the devastation which then took place, succeeded by the contests of the civil war, has left but imperfect remains of its former grandeur.

It sustained great injury during the attacks on the castle to which we have alluded, from having been made the principal station of the invaders; while the neighbouring church of St. Thomas, employed as a powder magazine, was totally destroyed.

The mineral waters are situated on the sea-shore at the foot of the cliff, and owe their discovery, in 1620, to a lady, who during her rambles on the sands was led to observe the peculiar colour and appearance of the water which oozed from the springs; and this, combined with the saline taste, inducing her to suppose it might possess medical properties, it was consequently analysed; and when the healing properties of the springs were fully established, the place speedily became a resort for invalids. The two springs possess distinct properties—the chalybeate and the saline; the waters of both flow freely, are quite clear when issuing from the source, but speedily have a ferruginous deposit; its specific gravity is very little

greater than that of distilled water, and its temperature is not affected by the season of the year. An imperial gallon yields 3 drachms and 45 grains of residuum, consisting of sulphate of magnesia, sulphate of lime, common salt, and a portion of protoxide of iron, and has been found highly efficacious in many chronic diseases, particularly affections of the liver, indigestion under its various forms, and general languor of the system. It has a strong saline chalybeate taste, and is taken in doses of from one to four half-pints at short intervals, the early morning being considered the most favourable time for the purpose.

The wells were formerly protected by a mean-looking building, which has now given place to one erected under the direction of Wyatt, resembling those to be found at the Spas of Germany, and which commands perhaps as fine a prospect as can be imagined. In front, the wide strand encircles the margin of the ocean, the more distant expanse of which, lost to view on the left hand, seems bounded on the right by a succession of beautiful bays and concave shores, extending between Scarborough and Filey to the utmost verge of the horizon. In the foreground, the shore retreats from the water in a series of oolitic freestone cliffs, backed by "Oliver Mount," loftiest of the range, and 490 feet high. Between this mount and another as nearly elevated, yawns a chasm 400 feet wide, with a depth of nearly 80 feet, which in former days must have rendered any communication between the town and the Spa very difficult to all invalids. Across this chasm a bridge is now thrown, resting upon light iron arches, and supported by three square insulated piers, 70 feet

high, with two end piers on bridge walls that connect the structure with the two opposite cliffs. The floor of the bridge, 14 feet wide, is formed of transverse planks perforated with apertures for the escape of rain water; a lofty open railing of iron serves as a protecting parapet along each of its sides. A moderate toll of half-a-crown a month is charged for each person desirous of enjoying the convenience of the bridge, and which permits them to have a singular view of the horse races occasionally held on Scarborough sands during the period of low tide.

Beyond the straight line of the bridge, a wide path, now in a direct, now in a zigzag form, leads to the Spa, for the protection of which building a species of sea-wall, or breakwater, has been erected at low-water mark. Its stability is undoubted, or else the great terrace, spread on the top of it, on which is seated the whole range of the new Spa buildings, would not, of course, have been erected. But fearful are the shocks it perpetually sustains, from the thundering waves of the German Ocean, the wearing action of high tide, and the frequent south-eastern gales which blow directly over the coast.

Piers for the security of shipping seem to date their origin from the time of Henry II., and were enlarged in that of George II.; but being still inadequate for the purpose, a new pier, sweeping into the sea, was built of extraordinary dimensions, and the ponderous rocks which compose it were taken from the quarry of "White Nab," about a mile distant. This curious quarry consists of a vast bed of flat rocks, lying upon the shore in regular strata: they are easily separated, are of

a close texture, and so hard as almost to defy the tool of the workman. Some of these rocks are from twenty to thirty tons in weight, and to remove them, iron chains are fixed to them, when dry at low-water, and as the tide flows flat-bottomed boats, called "floats," take them on board by means of cranes, fixed for the purpose on board. The importance of a pier in the situation where it has been so ably constructed, is very manifest, as Scarborough haven is the only port between Tynemouth and the Humber where ships of a large burden can find refuge in violent gales of easterly wind.

By the advantages of a neighbourhood so rich in natural phenomena as Scarborough, the museum of the town has not failed to benefit; and though its limits are but confined, it contains much to interest the scientific inquirer. Beautiful specimens of animals, minerals, and birds, are so ingeniously arranged, that we ascend from the solid granite in the bowels of the earth, up through the various strata, with all their "organic remains of a former world," till we find ourselves in the air, with the feathered tribes themselves. The deposit of fossil plants in the shale and sandstone at Gusthorp Bay, about five miles north of Scarborough, has furnished specimens of the ferns and lycopodium orders in greater variety and preservation than any other known locality can offer. Usually of a black colour, displayed upon a greyish ground, they closely resemble drawings in India ink, and are consequently more precious than those of the coal formation, which merely present black upon black.

But what is called the "Lion of the Museum"

is one of the greatest curiosities in this country. A few years ago a tumulus near Scarborough was opened, and, to the astonishment of the explorers, a huge trunk of an oak-tree came to view, in which was enclosed a human skeleton, complete, and entire. The trunk of the oak, being split longitudinally, one portion was excavated by rude instruments to form the coffin, and the other half constituted the lid. Some few weapons were found in this rude coffin, most of them arrows and javelins, tipped with flint, but only one metallic implement. The skeleton was doubled up, and the perfectly black bones were soaked in a fluid as black as ink, and which, in fact, it really was, for the rain of two thousand years had percolated through ground containing iron ore, and getting through the roughly-adapted sides of the coffin, it formed, with the tannin of the oak, an ink, that rendered the bones of this ancient Briton as black as jet. The remains were about six feet three inches in length, and not the least remarkable fact connected with the skeleton was the complete set of perfectly white teeth, which still remained in the skull, without a single speck of decay in them. When we reflect on the anxiety which all nations have evinced for the preservation of their mortal remains, or memorials of their earthly existence, we cannot but admire the success with which the heart of a British oak, hollowed out by rude hatchets and chisels, has thus preserved the bones of a savage for more than twenty centuries!

The produce of geological research in the vicinity of Scarborough is not altogether applied to scientific purposes, some of it has the destination of forming ornaments. Whitby and Scarborough

are both famous for the manufactory of jet, which is found at the former place in large masses, and cut at Scarborough into every species of ornament, such as neck chains, buckles, bracelets, paper-folders, and rings, and these at a price about one-fourth of what is demanded in London for similar articles.

In Robin Hood's Bay, distant about thirteen miles from Scarborough, is a fishing village, an attraction to visitors from the fame of its alum works, which are of some antiquity. They were first discovered in the reign of Queen Elizabeth by Sir Thomas Chaloner, and the English being at that time strangers to the management of aluminous salt, Sir Thomas is said to have "seduced some workmen from the Pope's alum works near Rome, then the most considerable in Europe." The little fishing-town likewise carries on a great trade in dried fish of the ling and skate kinds. These are preserved without salt, by being spread in the sun and wind, and for many years have formed a part of the victualling of ships for the East India Company, the fish being less liable to decay in hot climates than when salted. With potatoes it is deemed on the coast of Yorkshire an essential article of winter diet. In ascending the cliff over which this village is strangely scattered, the road passes the immense mountains of alum rock which form Stoupe Brow; and indeed, throughout an extent of thirty miles along the coast is an almost uninterrupted range of alum rock, lying at different depths. At one part, called the Peak, are some very extensive works; and near them, on the top of a very high cliff, the Danes, under Inguar, erected their famous

standard, or flag, on which was portrayed the figure of a raven, and from which circumstance the place has ever since been known by the name of Ravenhill. The total destruction of Streanshalp Abbey at the same time, is a convincing proof of the visit of these formidable invaders, while about two miles from Whitby is an eminence, also called Ravenhill, from a tradition that Ubba there erected his standard.

"Each with a gigantic stride
Trampling on all the flourishing works of peace
To make his greatness greater, and inscribe
His name in blood."

TORQUAY.

ON the south coast of Devonshire, half-way between the rivers Dart and Teign, lies the beautiful and far-famed Torbay. Two bold headlands, Hope's Nose on the north, and Berry Head on the south, distant nearly six miles from each other, form the extreme points of the bay. The bay itself, in its general configuration, pursues a path in the direction of the principal points of the compass, having its northern, western, and southern sides bounded by the coast, while the eastern or remaining side is open to the waters of the British Channel. But this rigid form of the shore is most agreeably broken by smaller bays and inlets, and these are again diversified by precipitous rocks, by the pebbly beach, and by firm and extensive sands. From the margin of the sea an undulating country spreads itself until it reaches the foot of gentle hills, which, covered with a verdure never fading, complete a scene which justifies the admiration of Napoleon, and the more recent praise of the historian, Macaulay.

The depth of the bay, measured due east and west from the line through Berry Head and Hope's Nose, is four miles and a half, and the length of

TORQUAY, FROM THE ROCK-WALK.

the irregular coast which connects these two horns of the bay is estimated to be not less than twelve miles.

Three principal places lie upon the shores of Torbay. Brixham on the south, famous for its fish-market, and for being the landing-place of the Protestant William. The large straggling village of Paignton occupies the centre of the western side of the bay. From the bay, and from many points of view on the land, this village forms an important feature of the landscape; but a near inspection diminishes the favourable impression which the distance made, and except its venerable church, once open to the sea, but now surrounded by ill-contrived buildings, there is nothing in Paignton worthy of notice. The praise, however, which the works of man cannot claim, is due to its unrivalled beach. Here the idle lover of nature may always agreeably spend his time, while the conchologist and sea-botanist cannot fail to find sources of intellectual amusement. It is strange that a place so formed for the healthful exercise of bathing should be neglected by the inhabitants of Torquay; for it might easily be reached by proper arrangements, such as are met with in continental watering places.

On the northern side, but in its western corner, at the termination of a bay with a south-western exposure, stands, or rather did stand, Torquay. Sixty years ago a few cottages on the beach, occupied by fishermen, and forming rude lodgings for country families seeking the sea-side for health or pleasure, was all that existed of Torquay. Soon after a reputation arose of its fitness for the winter residence of invalids, whom it was then the fashion

to expatriate to Nice, Montpellier, or Madeira. This fame was found to be no false report; and while English winters were found to be robbed of their severity, any defects of climate were more than compensated by English comforts and by English habits. But we are wandering from our description of the place itself, while we are pointing out its advantages. Let us, then, approach Torquay from the sea-side, as it is thus that its form is best seen. Torquay Proper consists of a small portion of level ground bounded by three hills; on the left hand rises Waldon Hill; in front of the spectator, supposed to have his back to the sea, is the Braddons; on the right hand is Park Hill. Two valleys, one between the Braddons and the Waldon Hill, and the other between the Braddons and Park Hill, run out of this plain, but so sinuous is the course of these valleys, that the level land, which was the origin of Torquay, is sheltered from every wind except the turbulent but warm south-west. Above this level plain, and looking over the bay, is built a terrace; and higher still, detached villas with charming gardens and shrubberies fill up the scene, which forcibly brings to our imagination a natural theatre, the lower ground being the stage and parterre, while the terrace and villas may be mentally occupied by the more aristocratic spectators.

Experience has shown that the benefits to be derived from a Torquay climate are not limited to the narrow space which we have just described; that the higher situations are not more exposed to the south-western gales than the less elevated ones, while they are equally sheltered from the north and east. A dry subsoil, an entire freedom

P. 17.

HESKETH CRESCENT, TORQUAY, DEVON

from marsh and running water (beautiful in the eye of the poet, but to the man of fact redolent with sewers and corruptions), are the natural advantages of the district on which are placed the (now) old and the modern Torquay.

The valley to the right, of which we have just spoken, pursues its way through the public gardens of the town, towards Bishopstowe and Babbicombe; but before we can traverse it, our attention is called to the Meadfoot district, with its beautiful villas and noble crescent. Within the last seven years the speculative energies of man have created on this spot a town, to which there is no parallel in England, nay, scarcely any in Europe. From almost all the residences in this part of Torquay the views are most interesting, but from the higher ones they are strikingly beautiful. From many of these spots we can command a view of the Channel, of the whole of Torbay, backed as it is with hills covered with wood, of Torquay, and of the distant Dartmoor Hills, blue, but conspicuous on the horizon, while the foreground is filled up by the reverse of Park Hill and the wood that skirts the Daddyhole plain.

Torquay has no antiquities; how can a town not sixty years old have such? but its neighbourhood contains some very interesting relics. The Norman door of Paignton Church, the ruins of Compton Castle, the remains of Berry Pomeroy, the Chapel at Tor Abbey, and the Church at Cockington, well repay the lovers of ancient architecture; and even if some of these be inferior to the edifices of other places, the charms of their romantic and picturesque situation will make up any deficiency.

The taste which is shown in the private residences at Torquay has not till of late been exhibited in public buildings; in fact, till lately there were no public buildings. Recently, however, there have been built a town-hall, an infirmary, and the new church at Upton. The town-hall exhibits great skill in overcoming the natural disadvantages of its contracted site. The fine interior of Upton Church is admirably adapted to its pious uses; but the church still wants its tower and spire, which, when completed, will make it a marked feature in the architecture of the town.

The old church at Tor, as to its exterior, interior, and situation, is almost everything we could wish for in a parish church, save that it is too small for the large population around it.

The neighbourhood of Torquay possesses many objects of high interest to the lover of Nature; and most of these lie within a walk, or at most an hour's drive; but to enumerate these would be to take upon ourselves the task of a guide or of the compiler of a hand-book. But we may remark on the wonders of Kent's Cavern, the vestiges of a state of nature very different from what we now see to exist. The walks in the neighbourhood of Ilsham, constructed by the Bishop of Exeter and Mr. Bartlett, call for the thanks and the admiration of the pedestrian. One of these, overhanging the sea, and passing over and under rocks, excites both astonishment and delight; while the shrubs and trees, green in the spray of the sea, make us forget that we are in England, and carry us to the shores of the Mediterranean.

Bishopstowe, the residence of the Bishop of

Exeter, built in the Italian style of architecture, is charmingly situated. The visitor to Anstey's Cave must feel how harmoniously it combines with the natural scenery in which it is so strikingly placed. Near this enchanting spot is Babbicombe, and further on is Watcombe, from which, if we return to Torquay by Stoney Valley, we shall be almost sated with scenery.

Although it is scarcely within our province to institute a comparison between the climate of Torquay and of other places visited by the invalid, and by those who wish to shun the severity of more northern situations, yet our brief notice would be incomplete without some mention of the subject. The professional opinion of Sir James Clarke, not an interested witness, is however at hand, and is undoubtedly of the highest authority. "Torquay," says Sir James, "is certainly drier than other places, and almost entirely free from fogs. The drier state of the atmosphere probably arises in part from the limestone rocks, which are confined to the neighbourhood of this place, and partly from its position between the two streams, the Dart and the Teign, by which the rain is in some degree attracted. Torquay is also remarkably protected from the north-east winds, the great evil of our spring climate; it is likewise well sheltered from the north-west. There is scarcely a wind that blows from which the invalid will not be able to find a shelter for exercise, either on foot or horseback. . . . The selection will, I believe, lie among the following places as winter and spring residences:—Torquay, Undercliffe, Hastings, and Clifton, and perhaps in the generality

of cases will deserve the preference in the order stated."

A long series of observations has been made at Woodfield, the residence of E. Vivian, Esq., by that gentleman, from which it appears that the mean annual winter temperature is 44° at Woodfield, and 46° in the more sheltered portions of the town, a temperature far higher than the general average of the kingdom.

We must now conclude this sketch of Torquay; but to some of our readers the following details will not prove uninteresting. Torquay is itself in the parish of Tor, or Tor-Mohun. The principal part of it belongs to Sir Lawrence Vaughan Palk, Bart., the remaining part to Mr. Carey, of Tor Abbey. The parish of Tor-Mohun was anciently called Tor-Brewer, from a family of that name, said to be descended from Richard Bruer, or Brewer, a follower of the Norman Conqueror. Lord William Brewer, founder of Tor Abbey, Baron of Torbay and Totnes, is supposed to have been born at Tor. This nobleman was distinguished by the confidence of four sovereigns, Henry II., Richard I., John, and Henry III. He had extensive estates in Devonshire and Somerset. Henry III. gave him wardship of Reginald de Mohun, Lord of Dunster, who afterwards married Alicia, fifth daughter of Lord Brewer, and so came in possession of Tor-Brewer. Reginald de Mohun left two sons, Reginald and William. The former, by exchange with his brother, came in possession of Tor Brewer; he built the chapel adjoining the court-house, and died in 1257. The name of the parish was at this period changed

from Tor-Brewer to Tor-Mohun, which it still bears.

At the Reformation, the manor was bought by John Ridgway, whose grandson in 1662 was created Earl of Londonderry; and Lucy, one of the co-heiresses, brought it by marriage to Arthur Marquis of Donegal. The Earl of Donegal in 1768 sold the manor to Sir Robert Palk, Bart. grandfather of the present baronet.

CHELTENHAM.

" And bounteous Nature o'er the lovely vale
Pour'd forth her gifts profuse; perennial springs
Flow'd for her habitants, and genial suns
With kindly showers, to bless the happy clime,
Combined their gentle influences."

SOUTHEY.

MEDICINAL springs have obtained a sanction for their usefulness, in the concurrence of physicians and the experience of mankind, from the earliest periods of antiquity down to the present time; magnificent temples were erected upon the spots where they were originally discovered, and tutelary spirits or divinities were created to preside over their administration and effects. Crowds of suffering individuals, whom the baffled physicians had relinquished as incurable, here found a fresh stimulus to their hopes, not unfrequently realized by a restoration to health—that blessing,

" Most courted, most despised,
And but in absence duly prized."

In modern times, we find that a reliance upon the efficacy of mineral waters has increased rather than diminished, and that nearly the whole tide

of professional as well as public experience and opinion is in their favour; and when we consider the change of scene and air, of food and drink, of rising and retiring, of exercise and conversation,—in short, of the whole moral and physical conditions which surround the patient, we are not surprised at the cures in so many cases effected, the consequent popularity of such means of health, and the rapid rise into consequence of localities where they abound.

From having been from its medicinal springs thus devoted to health and recreation, does Cheltenham owe its present notoriety and prosperity; for over the whole of the spot—indeed, over the whole vale of Gloucester, in which it stands—an extensive forest once flourished, extending to the banks of the Avon near Bristol. In still earlier times this forest was inhabited by savage beasts, and the manor of Cheltenham had to pay to King Edward the Confessor a grant of three thousand loaves of bread, for his "dogs employed in keeping them down by hunting." The timber of this immense district was particularly valuable, and the oaks of Dean were so widely celebrated and renowned that Evelyn tells us, "in Queen Elizabeth's reign an ambassador was purposely sent from Spain to procure their destruction, either by negotiation or treachery." The valley was also once celebrated for its vines, the grapes of which were manufactured into wines, equal, according to William of Malmesbury, "to the rich and luscious ones of France." To these the poet Drayton alludes when he remarks,—

"But of her vines deprived, now Gloucester loves to plant
The pear-tree everywhere:"

and consequently the perry of the locality is now as celebrated as the produce of the vine in the days of old.

The vale of Gloucester is still beautifully wooded; its beeches and lime-trees are very luxuriant; and, next to the medicinal character of its springs, the picturesqueness of its neighbourhood makes Cheltenham a very popular place of residence for visitors. Leckhampton Hill, at the foot of which Cheltenham spreads, is the nearest ridge of the Cotswold Hills; and from its summit, which rises very precipitately in some parts, especially near the detached piece of rock called "The Devil's Chimney," is commanded a magnificent view of the widely-spreading valley, with its three centres of life, Gloucester, Cheltenham, and Tewkesbury; while, when the day is clear, still further north, across the silver Severn, the towers of Worcester Cathedral may be seen rising loftily into the air.

We find, from the mention of it in that invaluable record of our Saxon England, the "Doomsday Survey," that when the kingdom fell into the hands of the Norman Conqueror, Cheltenham was of some little consequence: it was then a royal manor, and gave its name to a hundred, as it still does. Of the condition of the place as a town the notices are few and scanty; but it is mentioned in the reign of Henry VIII. as "being a large town having a market," and its fine old church is a sufficient proof that it was not merely a rural parish. When the contest broke out between Charles I. and the Parliament, Cheltenham was garrisoned for the king, and one or two encounters took place near to the then little town, of which

traces are still occasionally turned up by the plough or the spade.

In 1666 the town is said to have contained 321 houses and 1,500 inhabitants, and for many years after, consisted of one little group of houses round the church, and of one long street, through the centre of which flowed a branch of the little river Chelt, from which it took its name, and which was crossed here and there by means of stepping-stones, or by a plank. The town still consists principally of one street, but this now extends upwards of a mile in length, dividing it completely into two parts; Pittville and its pleasure grounds lying on one side, and the Old Wells and Montpellier on the other. With the exception of a few branching streets out of the main thoroughfare, and one or two of inferior character running parallel with it, the rest of Cheltenham is made up of villas, terraces, squares, and crescents, mingled with which, a rich luxuriance of foliage imparts a rural and verdant appearance not often to be met with in large towns.

In all the springs which emerge from the sandy vale of Cheltenham, the sulphate of soda, or chloride of sodium, predominates; so that they belong to the class of saline waters. It is worthy of notice that most of the saline springs of Great Britain take their rise in the new red-stone formation; those of Cheltenham, however, rise in a stratum of blue clay, abounding in iron pyrites which repose on the inferior oolite limestone; a circumstance which is said to account for the well-known fact that these mineral waters are strongest when first opened, and gradually decrease in strength, until it becomes necessary to sink new

wells, in order to obtain water of the requisite strength. The specific gravity of the water of four of the springs belonging to Thompson's Spa, was observed to be diminished, and two to be increased, between 1817 and 1820, to such a degree as to excite the surprise of chemists. The number of springs at present is fourteen, each of which presents some slight difference in the amount of the saline ingredients and their concomitants. The most important differences are owing to the presence of iron in some, occasionally accompanied with carbonic acid and sulphuretted hydrogen. Those in which no iron exists, partake much of the nature of sea-water, and resemble it in effects, when used internally. It is sometimes advisable to change from one kind to the other, according to the state or progress of the patient; all which points are regulated by the resident physicians. The persons most benefited by the Cheltenham waters are those who have suffered by a long residence in hot climates, and also in cases of debility.

Animals in a state of disease, especially horses, are said to derive benefit from the waters, which they drink very willingly; indeed one of the old traditions of the wells tells us, that we are indebted for their discovery to a horse who was kept at grass on the spot, and who, from frequently drinking of the water, was cured of a cutaneous disease from which it suffered. Another tradition states that the water owes its discovery to the circumstance "of a slow spring being observed to ooze from a strong, thick, bluish marle, under the sandy soil, which after spreading itself a few yards disappeared, leaving a residuum of salt." This

attracted flocks of pigeons, who daily resorted to the spot to partake of a condiment of which they are well known to be so fond; and the owner of the ground, also observing that the spring never suffered from the influence of frost, was induced to have the properties of the water tested. At any rate, the inhabitants of Cheltenham believe the latter tale to be no fiction, for on the entrance to the Old Wells walk, a couple of pigeons are carved in memory of the circumstance.

The pigeons having thus discovered the first spa, in 1716, on the site of the present Old Wells, it was soon turned to the use of man: an analysis of its properties was published, but it was not until 1738 that a building was erected over it for the accommodation of visitors. In 1743, the great walk, or avenue of elm-trees, was planted, to which the growth of a hundred years has now given full stature, and entwined their upper branches into an embowered roof of charming shade. The upper end of the walk is terminated by a villa, from the front of which is commanded a fine view of the noble avenue, the spire of the ancient church of St. Mary forming a picturesque termination to the perspective view. It was here that, during the visits of George III. and his family to Cheltenham, the Queen held her drawing-rooms, receiving on the walk such of the nobility as resorted to Cheltenham for the purpose of paying their respects to royalty.

Nothing gratified the inhabitants, during the royal visits, more than the unguarded and affable manner in which His Majesty lived, conversed, and moved about among his subjects. A short anecdote on this point speaks volumes. The King

PITTVILLE SPA, CHELTENHAM.

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"Whereas the famous mineral-water of Cheltenham, in the county of Gloucester, has not been for some years past so much resorted to as formerly, from a report that the inhabitants were exorbitant in their demands, and no convenience to be had reasonably: By an unanimous meeting, consent, and agreement of the gentlemen, tradesmen, and innholders of the said town, this is to certify that all gentlemen and ladies, and others, may meet with a kind reception and good usage, with convenient lodging and ordinaries kept, if encouraged, at reasonable rates. Note.—'Tis a pleasant town, situate in a fine sand, in a fine air."

Then follows a long list of the various maladies to be cured by the healing water; statements which, if true, would rank it as a second Pool of Bethesda.

For many years the spa at the Old Wells was the only one of any importance in the town, and as each succeeding year brought a fresh influx of visitors, the demand became greater than the supply, and proprietors of adjoining lands attempted the discovery of similar waters upon their own property. Of these, the most successful was Mr. Henry Thompson, who, at different times, discovered no less than eighty wells, all yielding a greater or less proportion of mineral water; and, in 1806, the Montpellier Spa was founded, the waters of which are of six different kinds.

In the summer of 1824, upwards of 100 acres of land, the property of Mr. Pitt, lay impropriator of the rectory of Cheltenham, were sold for the purpose of building the new town of Pittville, with its pump-room, and laying out of grounds and drives; proceedings which, according to one of the

local guide-books, was done at the cost of half a million sterling. The hill on which the pump-room stands abounds with springs, and the spacious edifice itself is built in imitation of the temple on the Ilissus at Athens. It is of the Ionic order, surrounded by a colonnade, above which a tier of buildings rises, a dome seventy feet in height crowning the whole. From the gallery of this dome is commanded a panoramic view of the surrounding vale, bounded by the Malvern and Cotswold Hills, and extending on the S. W. to the mountains of Wales. Over the portico are three colossal statues of Hygeia, Æsculapius, and Hippocrates, and in the noble pump-room the water is served from a marble tripod, surmounted by a statue of Hebe.

In 1850 a new pump-room was opened at the Royal Old Wells; the grounds were restored to their former attraction, and the place is again become as popular as in the days of the good old king who first brought it into notice. From medicated baths, which occur in the town, a manufactory of the well-known Cheltenham salts is carried on.

"Seven Springs," the true source of the Thames, lies near the foot of Leckhampton Hill, about three miles from Cheltenham, and the walk to it is through a lovely green slope, called the Velvet Valley. The stream which flows from Thames Head, near Cirencester, is, by many writers, called the source of the Thames; but from its situation, so much further from the main trunk, and the greater quantity of water that constantly flows from it, "Seven Springs" seems fairly entitled to the name of the very head of Father Thames,

and is now generally so considered by geographers.

For a description of the various public buildings of Cheltenham we have not space; but, as an evidence of the antiquity of the fine old church of St. Mary, we may adduce the fact that, in 1190, the chapel of Charlton Kings was dedicated to it as to the mother church, and tradition fixes its erection 180 years previous. It is built in the form of a cross, and a square tower, rising from the intersection, is surmounted by a lofty spire. The interior retains a considerable portion of the rood loft, and in the northern aisle is a very beautiful circular window. In the chancel, a curious lavatory is preserved, and many of the monumental devices and inscriptions are of great antiquity. Amongst them are the effigies in brass, on a flat stone, of a judge, who died in the reign of Henry VII., and his wife, three sons, and seven daughters with their children.

Avenues of lime-trees shadow the walks leading to the church in every direction; and, on the north side of the burial-ground, an ancient stone cross rises from the centre of a square pedestal, on each side of which are three stone steps. This was, doubtless, one of the many "parochial crosses" which, in the days of superstition, were erected in the way leading to parish churches, in order, as we are told, "to inspire reverence for the mysteries which the people were about to witness."

Until the year 1823, the church was supposed to afford sufficient accommodation for the town, but since that period seven new churches have been built, while chapels for all the different denominations of Dissenters abound.

The country around Cheltenham unites so many requisites for a varied Flora, that it is a favourite resort for botanists. The heights of the Cotswolds favour the growth of many plants, which seldom affect lowland situations, amongst which may be enumerated the "Fedias," "Asperula cynanchica," "Campanula glomerata," "Thesium linophyllum," "Anemone pulsatilla," "Astragalus hypoglottis," "Onobrychis sativa," "Hippocrepis comosa," "Gnaphalium sylvaticum," and many other rare and exquisite plants; while the fine hanging woods of the hills which face the south are enriched with the "Convallaria majalis" and "Convallaria polygonatum." In the beech woods, the botanical explorator is sure to meet with the curious "Monotropa hypoptis," the "Listera nidus avis," and the beautiful "Epipactis grandiflora;" while the numerous brooklets, overshadowed by underwood, offer a warm shelter for many delicate plants which could not flower in the open and exposed vale.

The botany and geology of this rich neighbourhood, in fact, well merit the attention they have received, and works on both subjects have been written, and may be studied with great interest and advantage to the inquirer. Fossil remains abound, and their description forms a strikingly interesting portion of the "Geology of Cheltenham," a work published by Sir R. L. Murchison as a local guide to a subject so interesting.

LEAMINGTON.

LEAMINGTON.

"THESE are thy walks, oh! sacred health,
The monarch's bliss, the beggar's wealth!"

LEAMINGTON, the Spa of Warwickshire, is distant from the town of Warwick two miles, from Coventry eight, and from Birmingham twenty-two; and its importance as a watering place may be inferred, from the extreme rapidity with which it has risen from obscurity to become a town of some considerable magnitude—a fact which, with a due degree of justice, has been attributed to the number, variety, and abundance of its mineral streams. Having eleven different wells, and uniting, in a single spot, waters similar to those of Harrogate, Cheltenham, and Tunbridge, the invalid is neither necessitated to wander about from place to place, seeking that which is most applicable to his peculiar complaint, nor compelled to add foreign ingredients to increase its medicinal powers. The springs to which Leamington thus owes its fame were known as early as the sixteenth century, and are mentioned as a curiosity by Camden; while Fuller, in the succeeding century, speaks of "the twin springs, as being as different in taste and operation as Esau and Jacob, the one being salt, the other fresh." Dugdale remarks, "that

in his time the hamlet possessed a salt spring;" and Dr. Thomas, in his additions to the latter writer, observes "that the inhabitants used it in salting their meat and in making their bread."

Other springs have been since discovered, and in the year 1797, Dr. Lambe chemically analysed the waters, and found that they contained medicinal properties, of the most varied and valuable description. An account of his discovery was inserted in the Manchester Memoirs, and the notice of the public was immediately attracted. Several medical persons of high reputation corroborated the statement of Dr. Lambe; and the diseased and the fashionable soon hastened to the spot of promise in pursuit of health and amusement.

Benevolent institutions now abound in the town; but shortly after the fame of the waters was fully established, the physicians met with a coadjutor in humble life, whose industry and merits deserved to be recorded. This was Benjamin Satchwell, a hard-working tradesman of the then obscure village, who successfully exerted himself in the institution of a charity for the gratuitous relief of distressed invalids, to whom the use of the waters might be recommended.

The springs all lie within the range of a musket-shot from the bridge over the river Leam, from which the town takes its name. The old well, or No. 1, the father of them all, whose origin is shrouded in antiquity, is in front of an old church, near the river in Bath-street, and has two spouts, or pumps, one on the outside for the good of the public, the other inside of a little pump-room for all who can afford to pay, either by the day, week,

or month. At a little distance is "Gorld's Spa," discovered in 1784. The Victoria well, formerly Robbin's well, was opened in 1804; and at this period, a revolution took place in the Spas of Leamington, from being drunk at the original founts, and as they issued from their subterranean reservoirs, they were then enclosed in buildings, pumps inserted into the natural wells, and the medicated streams were distributed from silver cocks to the invalids.

As the reputation of the springs rose, so did the number of houses and hotels; and when, in 1808, a spring was found on the north bank of the Leam, which received the name of the Royal Spa, over it was erected a spacious pump-room, extensive bath-rooms, and a large piece of ground was laid out for promenades, music, &c. This is the Spa that appears to attract the greatest number of drinkers; partly from the great strength of the saline chalybeate, partly from the size of the pump-room, and partly for the pleasure grounds and music.

The springs of Leamington are saline, sulphureous, and chalybeate, containing in various proportions oxygen, azote, and carbonic acid gases; and the sulphureous springs sulphuretted hydrogen, with sulphate of soda, the chlorides of sodium, calcium, and magnesia; and, in some instances, silica, peroxide of iron, and traces of iodine and bromine. The local physicians, of course, advise patients which springs to use, according to their complaints, and also the precautions to be employed. The ordinary season for using the waters is from May to October, and, during this period, plenteous open air exercise is deemed necessary to be taken

along with the waters, a part of the treatment which is not the least important to the patient, and which the beautiful environs of the town allure him to enjoy in full perfection.

So rich, indeed, is the neighbourhood of Leamington in interesting and romantic attractions, that we are told a large party of artists, having resolved to give their opinion in writing, under a sealed cover, as to what spot within an extent of twenty miles each considered most to abound with picturesque scenery, celebrated spots of local interest, both ancient and modern, not forgetting the necessary adjunct of good roads, and accommodation for "man and horse;" by far the largest portion of the documents were in favour of Leamington. The palm was awarded to the twenty miles of ground that extend from Coventry to Stratford-on-Avon, through Kenilworth and Warwick; the Royal Spa at Leamington being midway from each point of attraction.

Let the visitor, thus stimulated to agreeable excursions in so many directions, set out, in the first place, on the route to Warwick, with its famous baronial castle, the tower of which, in all probability, nearly, if not quite, as old as the period of the Norman conquest, has successfully resisted all the accidents and decays of time, and remains at this moment almost as firm as the rock on which it stands.

The approach to Warwick Castle is calculated to produce the most striking effect. A broad and winding path, cut through the solid rock, gradually leads to the lofty and massive towers, ranged in an embattled line, unspeakably august and commanding, well confirming the fact that before the

invention of gunpowder the fortress was impregnable. So formidable, indeed, was this massive pile once considered, that the widowed Countess of Warwick was interdicted from re-marrying, except by the king's express permission; the turbulence of the times obliging him to act with this precaution and policy.

The structure has descended through the lines of Newburgh, Beauchamp, Nevil, Plantagenet, and Dudley, to the family of the present possessor. Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, who is said to have passed a great deal of his time in retirement at Warwick, built Guy's tower in the N.E. of the castle; and the unfortunate Duke of Clarence, brother to Edward IV., who married the daughter of the "king-making" Earl of Warwick, added much to its beauty. From that time to the present, considerable improvements have been made in the interior of the castle; each succeeding Earl having devoted a large portion of time and revenue to this purpose; and, in the progressive ameliorations, every attention has been given to preserve the antique character of the edifice. A grand face of the building is displayed towards the river Avon, based on the rock, which affords a foundation to the pile, and which here rises perpendicularly to a considerable height, before the stonework of the superstructure commences. The grand suite of apartments extend in a right line 333 feet, and are finished with the most correct magnificence. Among the numerous paintings which adorn them are some by the famous Venetian painter Antonio Canaletti, who, in the early part of the last century, resided for a considerable time at the castle.

In a greenhouse, erected for its reception, stands the celebrated antique vase, brought by Sir W. Hamilton, formerly ambassador at Naples, from the ruins of Adrian's villa at Tivoli. It is of a circular form, composed of white marble, and capable of containing one hundred and sixty-three gallons.

At Guy's Cliff house, on the western bank of the Avon, a hermitage is recorded to have stood, to which the renowned Guy Earl of Warwick retired, after the many valorous exploits recorded of him in this part of the country; and at Warwick a monastery chapel was erected by Beauchamp Earl of Warwick, in the reign of Henry III., with a statue to his memory. This celebrated warrior, Guy, is supposed to have flourished during the reign of Athelstan; and, besides his many victories over dragons, wild boars, &c., he is said to have decided the fate of the kingdom in single combat with an enormous giant, who stood, the champion of the Danes, at Mem-hill, near the walls of Winchester, when King Athelstan was there besieged. Many curiosities are shown in the castle as having once belonged to this hero, such as his spear, bucklers, spurs, bows, his porridge pot, and also the slippers of the beautiful Phillis, for whom he performed all these wonderful achievements.

From the great court of the castle the view is truly magnificent. The area is now fertile in soft and well-cultivated greensward; but still spread around, stand the mighty remains of fortifications, raised in turbulent ages, now long passed away. The outline of these relics is perfect, and none of the battlements have been ruined by time.

Not far from Guy's Cliff is a remarkable point of interest called Blacklow Hill, the scene of a well-known instance of the rude justice of our ancestors. On this eminence, on the 19th of June, 1312, Pierce Gaveston, the wretched favourite of Edward II., was beheaded. While the barons were discussing in Warwick Castle what to do with their prisoner, a voice was heard from one of them, "You have caught the fox, will you have to hunt him again?" This at once decided the matter, Gaveston was hurried to Blacklow Hill and there beheaded. An inscription, rudely cut upon a rock close by, commemorates the fact, and a cross was erected, as a further memorial, a few years since, on the summit of the hill.

After Warwick Castle, the chief attraction in the neighbourhood of the Warwickshire Spa is, undoubtedly, Kenilworth Castle; and the railway between Coventry and Leamington has a station at this point of interest. This once important stronghold, one of some historical consequence, was founded in the reign of Henry I., was garrisoned by Henry II., during the rebellion of his son. In the reign of the third Henry it was used as a prison; and in 1254, the king by letters patent gave to Simon Montfort, who had married Eleanor, the king's sister, the castle in trust for life. Simon soon after joined the rebellion against the king, and together with his eldest son, was killed at the battle of Evesham, in 1265. His youngest son escaped, and, with other fugitives, took shelter in the castle, where they became regular banditti. The king, determined to put an end to their excesses, marched an army against them. Simon fled, and escaped to France, but his companions

held out against a six months' siege. At length their provisions failed, a pestilence broke out, and the governor surrendered the castle to the king, who bestowed it upon his youngest son, the Earl of Leicester, afterwards created Earl of Lancaster.

In 1286, a grand chivalric meeting of one hundred knights of high distinction, English and foreign, and the same number of ladies, was held at Kenilworth; and at this festival, it is said that silks were for the first time worn in England. In the reign of Edward II. the castle again came into the hands of the Crown, and the king intended to make it a place of retirement for himself; but in the rebellion which soon followed, he was taken prisoner in Wales, and brought to Kenilworth. From hence, after being compelled to sign his abdication, he was removed to Berkeley Castle, where he was so inhumanly murdered, in 1327. Edward III. restored the castle to the Earl of Lancaster, whose granddaughter brought it, in marriage, to the celebrated John of Gaunt, afterwards Duke of Lancaster, who made the many additions to the castle which still retain the name of "Lancaster's buildings." On his death it descended to his son, Henry IV.

During the civil wars of the houses of York and Lancaster, it was alternately taken by the partizans of the white and red roses; and very long after their termination, Queen Elizabeth bestowed it upon her heartless and ambitious favourite, Dudley Earl of Leicester. That wealthy nobleman spared no expense in beautifying the castle, and in making many splendid additions, called after him "Leicester's buildings." But the most memorable incident in the history of Kenilworth

Castle is the royal entertainment given by the aspiring Earl to his Queen. Elizabeth visited him in state, attended by thirty-one barons, besides her ladies of the court, who with four hundred servants were all lodged in the castle. The festival continued for seventeen days, at an expense estimated at a thousand pounds a-day (a great sum in those times). The waiters upon the court, as well as the gentlemen of the barons, were all clothed in velvet; ten oxen were slaughtered every morning, and the consumption of wine is said to have been sixteen hogsheads, and of beer forty hogsheads daily.

An account of this singular and romantic entertainment, published at the time by an eye-witness, presents a curious picture of the luxuriance, plenty, and gallantry of Elizabeth's reign. The Queen performed her journey from London to Kenilworth entirely on horseback, and entered the domains by a stately bridge constructed across the lake which partly surrounded the castle, in order that she might thus enter it by a path hitherto untrodden, instead of the usual entrance.

On the departure of Elizabeth, the Earl of Leicester made Kenilworth his occasional residence, till his death in 1538, when it was bequeathed to his brother, Ambrose Earl of Warwick, and after his death to his own son, Sir Robert Dudley. But his legitimacy being questioned, Sir Robert quitted the kingdom in disgust; his castles and estates were seized by a decree of the Court of Star Chamber, and given to Henry son of James I.

The castle, on the untimely death of this

interesting young prince, went into the possession of his brother Charles I., who granted it to Cary Earl of Monmouth; but the downfall of the gigantic structure was now fast approaching. During the wars it was seized by Cromwell, and by him given to some of his officers. These rapacious plunderers, who had no sort of respect for the majestic pile, soon reduced it to what it now is, a mass of ruins. They drained the lake, which once flowed over so many hundred acres, ravaged the woods, beat down the walls, dismounted the towers, choked up its fair walks and rooted out its pleasant gardens, destroyed the park, and divided and appropriated the lands. On the restoration of Charles II., the estate and ruins of the castle were granted to Lawrence Viscount Hyde, of Kenilworth, and by the marriage of a female heiress descended from him, passed in 1752 into the possession of Thomas Villiers Baron Hyde, son of the Earl of Jersey, who was advanced in 1776 to the dignity of Earl of Clarendon, from him descending to his son.

The "historian of Warwickshire" has given us the ground-plan of Kenilworth Castle as it was in 1640. By this, we may trace the pool, and the pleasaunce; the inner court, the base court, and the tilt-yard; Cæsar's tower, and Mortimer's tower; King Henry's lodgings, and Leicester's buildings; the hall, the presence chamber, and the privy chamber. Without such aid, Kenilworth would only appear to us as a mysterious mass of ruined gigantic walls, archways, and staircases, scenes of almost neglected desolation, which would have probably so continued for another century, but for the magic interest thrown

around them by the visit of Sir Walter Scott, and the romance of 'Kenilworth' which followed it. "The torch of genius again lighted up every room so spacious," and they were, for ever after, to be associated with the recollections of their ancient splendour, when a lordly palace, where princes feasted and heroes fought, now in the bloody earnest of storm and siege, and now in the games of chivalry, where "beauty dealt the prize by valour won."

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